

With regard to our commitments to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, we have promised a brigade group. For this purpose the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade has been raised with the help of 42 reserve army units. Recruiting for this brigade has been going on for some six weeks, and over 8,000 officers and men have been enlisted. It is expected that this unit will go to Europe, and that single men will serve a term of two years overseas and married men a term of one year.

We need large numbers of tradesmen in the armed forces and we are training most of them. Generally speaking, we are taking untrained men from civilian life and we shall be returning them trained, and better equipped for civilian life.

We have offered an air division of 11 squadrons to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, for western Europe. The first of these squadrons is at the present time undergoing advanced training in England. We expect to send two other squadrons over to Europe later this year or early next year.

This part of the operation is very expensive since these squadrons are to be equipped with jet aircraft made in Canada. Most of these will be of the F-86E type, which is the most powerful fighter yet produced.

These aircraft are fitted with our engine and cost about \$400,000 each. They travel up to the rate of sound and have a very fast rate of climb.

Not long ago the F-86E made a flight from Minneapolis to Toronto, a distance of 715 miles, in one hour and five minutes, which must be some kind of record.

The CF-100, the Canuck, a two jet engine aircraft, using our own Canadian designed and made Orenda jet engine, is being made by Avro in Toronto. The Orenda is believed to be the most powerful engine in production, although other engines are being developed which will improve upon it.

We are standardizing the equipment used by our three services with our neighbours to the south. We have sent the arms and ammunition for one division to Belgium, for another to the Netherlands and we expect to send that for a third to Italy in the near future.

We are replacing this with U.S. type equipment. We have begun the systematic change of all our equipment so as to be inter-changeable with that of the Americans.

As this equipment is replaced, we shall send more equipment to NATO countries.

In addition, we are making available to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries radar equipment, wireless sets, walkie-talkie sets, anti-aircraft guns, ammunition and equipment to a total of \$361,000,000 as so far planned.

We are reopening seven more wartime airfields to enable us to train more pilots and navigators for NATO countries. These are all in the Prairie provinces, in order to take advantage of the good flying weather and to distribute the defence effort as much as possible across Canada.